

Message Text

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47

ACTION SIL-01

INFO OCT-01 AF-06 ARA-06 EUR-12 EA-07 ISO-00 CIAE-00

COME-00 EB-07 INR-07 LAB-04 NSAE-00 /051 W

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R 061523Z APR 76

FM USMISSION EC BRUSSELS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 951

INFO ALL EC CAPITALS 1984

AMEMBASSY ADDIS ABABA

AMEMBASSY BOGOTA

AMEMBASSY BUENOS AIRES

AMEMBASSY CARACAS

AMEMBASSY HELSINKI

AMEMBASSY LIMA

AMEMBASSY LISBON

AMEMBASSY MADRID

AMEMBASSY MANILA

AMEMBASSY MEXICO CITY

AMEMBASSY OSLO

AMEMBASSY OTTAWA

RUFHAU/AMEMBASSY VIENNA 1997

AMEMBASSY STOCKHOLM

USMISSION NATO BRUSSELS

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: ELAB, ICFTU, EEC

SUBJECT: KULAKOWSKI ELECTED GENERAL SECRETARY OF THE WORLD
CONFEDERATION OF LABOR

1. SUMMARY: JEAN KULAKOWSKI HAS BEEN ELECTED GENERAL
SECRETARY OF THE WORLD CONFEDERATION OF LABOR (WCL) REPLACING
JEAN BRUCK WHO RESIGNED FOR MEDICAL REASONS. END SUMMARY.

2. AT AN APRIL 2 WCL CONFEDERAL BOARD MEETING, JEAN
KULAKOWSKI WAS ELECTED GENERAL SECRETARY OF THE TEN MILLION
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MEMBER WORLD ORGANIZATION. THE ACTION FOLLOWED THE SURPRISE

RESIGNATION OF THE AILING JEAN BRUCK WHO HAS NEVER FULLY RECOVERED FROM A SERIOUS NERVOUS BREAKDOWN SUFFERED IN JULY OF LAST YEAR. BRUCK RESUMED HIS DUTIES IN JANUARY BUT, ACCORDING TO MISSION WCL SOURCES, HAS BEEN UNABLE TO COPE WITH THE DEMANDS OF THE OFFICE.

3. WHILE CIRCUMSTANCES SURROUNDING KULAKOWSKI'S ELECTION ARE TIGHTLY HELD, WE LEARNED FROM A BELGIAN CHRISTIAN UNION (CSC) SOURCE THAT THE LATIN AMERICANS FAILED IN A STRONG BID TO HAVE WCL ASSISTANT GENERAL SECRETARY JOSE GONZALES MERCED OF MEXICO NAMED TO SUCCEED BRUCK. OUR SOURCE SAID THAT CSC LEADER JEF HOUTHUYS PUSHED THE CANDIDACY OF KULAKOWSKI FOR FEAR THAT A LATIN AMERICAN GENERAL SECRETARY WOULD HAVE LED TO THE WCL'S DEMISE. HE SAID THAT KULAKOWSKI'S ELECTION REPRESENTED A VICTORY FOR THE WCL'S "MODERATES".

4. KULAKOWSKI, CURRENTLY SERVING AS ONE OF THREE SECRETARIES OF THE EUROPEAN TRADE UNION CONFEDERATION (ETUC), IS NOT SCHEDULED TO ASSUME HIS NEW POST UNTIL AFTER THE ETUC CONGRESS IN LONDON, APRIL 22-24. IT IS ANTICIPATED THAT A REPRESENTATIVE FROM ONE OF THE FORMER CHRISTIAN TRADE UNIONS WILL BE CHOSEN TO SUCCEED KULAKOWSKI AT THE ETUC SECRETARIAT. ACCORDING TO AN ETUC STAFFER, HE WILL PROBABLY BE CHOSEN FROM ONE OF THE DUTCH CHRISTIAN UNIONS AS BELGIAN SOCIALIST UNION LEADER GEORGES DEBUNNE COULD BE EXPECTED TO BLOCK A CANDIDATE FROM THE CSC AND THE FORCE OUVRIERE OF FRANCE COULD BE EXPECTED TO ADOPT A SIMILAR POSTURE IF THE FRENCH CFDT SHOULD NOMINATE SOMEONE FROM ITS RANKS.

5. ICFTU ASSISTANT GENERAL SECRETARY VANDERVEKEN VIEWS KULAKOWSKI'S ELECTION AS A POSITIVE DEVELOPMENT IN TERMS OF ICFTU-WCL RELATIONS. KULAKOWSKI WAS THE PRINCIPAL FORCE BEHIND THE AFFILIATION OF SEVEN CHRISTIAN UNIONS WITH THE ETUC IN 1974. VANDERVEKEN FEELS THAT KULAKOWSKI WILL ALSO PLAY A MAJOR ROLE IN THE ICFTU-WCL MERGER TALKS WHICH WILL BE ELEVATED FROM SECRETARIAT TO EXECUTIVE BOARD LEVEL AT A MEETING TENTATIVELY SCHEDULED FOR LATER THIS MONTH. HINTON

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